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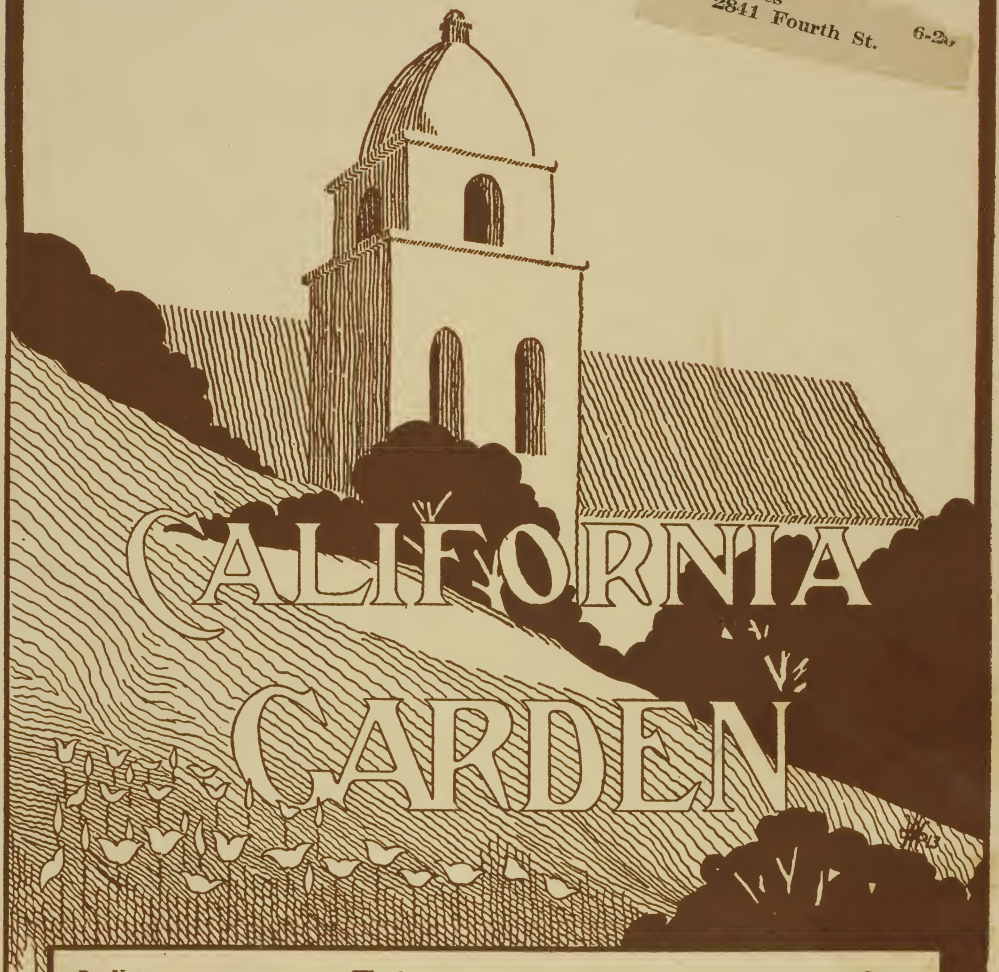

CALIFORNIA GARDEN

Per Year
One Dollar

February, 1920

Per Copy
Ten Cents

Things New and Old
Pickings and Peckings
Growing Chrysanthemums
A Chapter of Fruits

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The California Garden

Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association
One Dollar per Year, Ten Cents per Copy

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GARDEN THRIFT

We have heard in the past few years a great deal about thrift, and for that matter we still do. It is as timely now as then—possibly we need it more now than we did even in war times, as costs continue to soar. However, it seems to us that a certain kind of thrift is always needed in garden planning, and it involves a knowledge of real and relative values.

There are, for example, instances where we use an expensive and unsuitable rare exotic where a native shrub or a cheaper, more common or hardier one would have served the purpose better. This is usually done on the supposition that because the plant in question is uncommon and uncommonly expensive it must be good. We have in mind a certain home in San Diego where our very common plebeian Rhus integrifolia—one of the most familiar shrubs which compose the so-called brush on our hillsides, is used for the hedge planting in front. We don't know off hand who the owner is, but from external indications apparently he is abundantly able to afford whatever he chooses for the most conspicuous planting on his grounds, and he chooses with an eye to the very satisfactory effect which has been obtained—Rhus integrifolia. This is not necessarily a plea for our native shrubs, merely an example in garden values.

Then there is the economical gardener who pays twenty-five cents for a plant and gets ten cents worth of effect whereas the judicious expenditure of fifty cents for a better variety or a better individual of the same variety would give him five, ten or twenty-five dollars worth of effect.

Sometimes gardeners are misled into a form of economy which leads them to buy one shrub to fill a place where three are needed. Just as often the opposite is true and three shrubs or trees are planted where but one is needed. In either case it is poor business, which judicious thoughtful planning could have avoided.

We have again a place in mind—or rather two places—both of which probably represent about the same cost in plants and labor—and in each case it was considerable—but one place is a horrible example of how not to use planting material, while the other is a marvel of artistry and good landscaping. Most of the money which the first man put in to his grounds was wasted because he has too many kinds—too many plants of the wrong kind and the whole thing is hopelessly botched. Our only hope is that the owner doesn't know it, because we know how we should feel under the circumstances, and we don't want him to feel that way.

So if this rambling dissertation can be said to present a moral it would be to use the same thrift in your gardens that you do in your business, remembering that the price tag is not necessarily a value tag.

THINGS NEW AND OLD

By P. D. Barnhart

One of the desirable introductions to our gardens in recent years, is Amphicome arguta. It is not an herbaceous plant as the books say it is, but a low growing, soft wooded shrub. The flowers are borne in great profusion in terminal racemes during the first half of our summers, and sparingly the remainder of the year.

They are rose colored, of good size, and like all the members of the tribe—Bignoniaceae—are funnel shaped. The Generic name is from the Greek—amphi, both: and kome, hair. The seeds, which are very small, have hairs at both ends. The specific name means sharp toothed, or awl shaped, because the calyx lobes are thus shaped. It seeds freely, and there is no reason why it should not soon become plentiful, and cheap enough to be within the reach of the slimmest pocket book. It delights in full sun, and is not particular about soil. With me it is an evergreen.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

Ruellia macrantha is one of the old standbys for the fellow who has a lath house and is willing to feed the plants growing therein. I may say that plants—like people—must have something more than wind and water, if they are to thrive and show good color in foliage and in flower. Bone meal, flour of sulphur, wood ashes when they may be had, and dried blood applied in small quantities but often, and worked into the soil will put life and vigor into many a sickly looking lot of plants. This subject is one of the easiest to grow, and it produces its large dark rose colored flowers nine months of the year. Why Robinson has it not, is one of the enigmas of this mysterious world. It is as easily rooted as a willow, and the plants must be severely cut back every year if good speciments are desired. If left grow without pruning it soon becomes a ragged, weedy-looking subject, and these old tops are ideal for rooting. Howard & Smith are the only nurserymen on this coast who have it for sale.

Belonging to this same tribe—Acanthaceae —but to a different family, are the Justicias. They, too, are very floriferous during the summer season, and brighten up a shady spot with their soft rose or dark red flowers.

Ceropegia Woodii, is a member of the milkweed family: a trailing plant with fleshy variegated foliage, and the most wonderfully curious flowers imaginable. Not large, neither spectacular, but interesting, because of their shape and color. In addition to the seed pods, little bulbs grow in the axil of the leaves. This plant comes to us from South Africa, the native place of the next plant I shall refer to in this article—Othonna crassifolia. For hot dry places and poor soil, and for covering steep banks, where water is difficult to apply, this subject is without a peer. The common name applied to it is fairly well descriptive of the foliage, both as to shape and to color. "Little pickles." There now, you folks who are too indolent to learn the proper name, is one you can easily remember. To be sure the foliage is small but in shape is like unto a diminutive cucumber.

SEED PODS TO TRIM HATS

An innovation in the millinery world is the use of various ornamental seed pods for the trimming of hats. Possibly the next step in this direction will be miniature roof gardens for trimming purposes. A Japanese garden, for example, would be real chic.

The success of the **Bulb Show** as a demonstration of possibilities in this phase of gardening is dependent upon the displays made by every individual who gardens.

Red Gum Tree Yields Balsam of Trade Value

Few people in the South, where the real gum tree (Liquidamber styraciflua) grows, apparently are aware that the gum which exudes from this tree when its sapwood is wounded has commercial value. This "sweet gum", as it is commonly called, is similar in properties and composition to the commercial product obtained from a tree (Liquidamber orientalis) indigenous to Asia Minor and known in commerce as "Oriental storax."

According to the United States Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wis., small amounts of the dried gum have been used for some time in the manufacture of chewing gum, but since the war curtailed the supply of oriental storax considerable quantities of the fresh "sweet gum" or "American storax" have been put on the market to replace the imported product.

As much as $2 a pound has been paid to collectors of the gum and second hands have sold it for from $2.50 to $3 a pound. These prices, however, are inflated and it is probable that in normal times the gum would not bring more than 50 cents to $1 a pound.

Storax is used in the manufacture of perfumes, tobacco, adhesives, and pharmaceutical preparations, and contains cinnamic acid and cinnamic alcohol, both of which are in demand.

Airplanes Find Forest Fires

Reports to the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture, from the national forests in California, where Army aviators are making daily flights in search of forest fires, indicate that the innovation has been decidedly successful and that air patrols of the forests will prove so valuable that they will eventually become a permanent part of the work to shield the great woodlands from conflagrations. Numerous fires have been ddiscovered in their early stages by the aviators and have been reported immediately to the forest rangers. It is believed that considerable loss has been prevented by such early discovery. Lack of suitable landing places in this rugged country has proved a handicap in some instances and has caused a belief in some quarters that dirigible balloons will finally be found more suitable than airplanes for forest flying.

Remember there are to be *two* shows—the Spring Show and the Bulb Show.

Pickings and Peckings

By THE EARLY BIRD

I guess folks belong even in a Garden Magazine or at least I hope so, for I am impelled to write about them this month, and Gardens are made for folks not folks for gardens. How any one can think about anything else is strange, for this old Mother Earth was never so torn up by her human children who are going around fairly howling and boycotting and bellyaching, if the phrase is allowed, crying in the market-places "What is the matter?" when they know very well that they are. What was the original idea of creating man at all has never been acceptably stated, except to the stater, but it is a safe bet that it was not to cut one another's throats either with a stone axe, a bayonet, machine gun or the H. C. L. and yet history as far as we can trace it shows him with this as his chief recreation. Our one hope now seems to lie in the fact that no ones throat is safe and that may bring us together in a human league of sanity.

That much off my chest I want to just maunder around among you and I find myself in a cosy restaurant in San Diego near a table occupied by two ladies, one of mature years, one of years of discretion; the discretionary one was doing the talking. She said, "Yes, I like San Diego but I think I prefer Los Angeles, it has so many diflerent kinds of churches." It will be news to many of us that we are short on churches and particularly compared with our northern sister (perhaps we may acknowledge the relationship now the S. D. & A. is running) but I have not for an instant stopped speculating on what that lady was going to do to the churches and have half expected to hear of a new kind of raid on the Christmas Offerings. I listened to their further conversation in the hopes of a clue but they had forgotten this trivial church matter in a discussion of which was the most nourishing, chocolate and cake or coffee with rolls and butter, as they both cost two bits. Why does not some one start a dining-room with just one kind of food so that customers can sit down directly they come in and order ten cents to a dollar's worth without having to make further selections. I put this to some one once and was answered, "Then there would be nothing to talk about." That sentence is framed to let you guess the sex of the author of the answer.

Speaking of food one naturally comes to shoes because these days you cannot have both. I was buying shoes for my kiddie and getting short tempered over a continual rejection of high heels and pointed toes; finally I stirred up the autocrat who allows us to buy from him and he haughtily refused to search further with uncomplimentary hints at to the futility of my requirements, but the next store had a clerk who looked as if he owned children who wore shoes he provided. I mean he looked as if his own personal expenses were kind of kept down, so I said, "Do you let your kids wear these high-heeled dogkickers in the window?" "Not on your life," he replied. "Well, show me what you buy for them," and Behold, that which emerged from some back drawer was just the thing. I was talking about this rage for toe-screws, misnamed shoes, with a man and he said, "It ought not to be allowed. My wife's toes—" Here hold on, what are his wife's toes to you? He was telling me that; not you, a kind of confessional I must respect. I told you folks were queer; if a man walked on the street with a clothespin clamped on his nose he would be suspected of having hidden something but his wife many totter around with her toes squeezed a heap harder and get admiration for a small foot.

Reputations are the easiest things in the world to acquire,—apropos of which I have just received a membership card with a Christmas pamphlet full of loving allusions because I sent a few roses for the Garden at San Quentin last year. You see I had been in there and knew a garden would help the look and feel of things. Oh, yes, the Membership is in the ABOU BEN ADHEM club. You think I mention this from a full chest; I don't,—I suppose that their garden will need more things this year and I am giving you your chance to send something choice, as for me, I am uncomfortably conscious that I promised something in addition to the roses and never sent it. Don't you run away with the idea it is safe to promise anything for the San Quentin garden and then fail to do it for there is a chap in charge of this department who could even at this late date collect a subscription to the San Diego Exposition with one letter. Had he been turned loose on those drives he would have had an I. O. U. on every available dollar for the next ten years,—the amateurs who did the work

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Growing Chrysanthemums

By Mrs. Edward Strahlmann.

Since joining the San Diego Floral Association I have been asked for an article on my "hobby" The Chrysanthemum.

The word Chrysanthemum comes from two Greek words Chrysos-Gold—and Anthemum —A flower, and when the flower is menticned one naturally thinks of Japan. However it is not my intention to go back to ancient history as to the origin etc., etc. but merely to state in a concise manner a few cultural directions for Southern California, gained by exjerience, as to the management of plants grown especially for exhibition. There is no plant which will give better results or respond more freely to careful attention than the Chrysanthemum, and some say (perhaps) they are not worth the effort, but when the time of blossoms comes one feels amply repaid for all the care bestowed upon them. I have grown them to size of 9 inches in diameter and 23 inches in circumference. Is it not worth the time spent? You'll say YES, and to the amateur a few well grown specimens are worth more than a garden full of ordinary plants. What I have said in regard to their response to good treatment applies equally as well to neglect, as they quickly show what is being done for them in either direction.

The most important part in growing them for exhibition flowers is that you use top cuttings taken from the old plants (preferably in month of February) taking the tips from the new growth that shoots up around the old plant, as divisions of the roots planted out, will **not** give the same results as top cuttings rooted in sand.

When the time of buds arrives, all must be removed save two or three. It is also advisable to pinch the entire top out of the plant when it has attained a height of 6 or 8 inches, this will cause it to throw out three branches. You can save one, two or three as your fancy chcoses, leaving only one bud to each stem. To those that have not grown Chrysanthemums, and to others that have not been successful in growing them, the first thing you must have is soil to their liking; it must contain some leaf mold, granulated peat or manure—something to hold the moisture and porous enough to have drainage, as a heavy

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The February Vegetable Garden

By WALTER BIRCH

The past two or three weeks have been very unfavorable for general work in the garden, owing to the lack of moisture and unfavorable weather conditions in other ways. However, almost every year there is a period during the winter, when we are all anxious about the rain question, but quite generally we look back and find we have been "climbing the inevitable hill" before we have to. There is ample time yet for gardening, the best planting months still being ahead of us, so while the weather continues unfavorable you can occupy your time with more thorough preparation of your soil.

First get your fertilizer spread and then, after a thorough irrigation, soaking the ground 2 or 3 feet deep, as soon as it is dry enough to dig, so that the soil separates easily, spade up your ground about a foot deep, leaving the surface in the rough, so that the air and sun can penetrate. By doing this your ground will be ready, so that when the first favorable planting weather comes, you can rake the surface over and start planting and sowing with a good chance for much quicker results than you can get under the present unfavorable conditions.

You can also busy yourself preparing your hot bed and cold frame if you wish to raise extra early crops. With these protections you can plant seed and raise plants much earlier than you dare plant out of doors, as soil and weather conditions are still too cold, where there is no protection, for the class of seeds that require warmth and shelter like tomatoes, peppers, etc., and a number of flower seeds.

For your cold frame, which is the most largely used in Southern California, make a box-like frame about 6 feet wide, and any length you wish, 12 inches high at the back and 8 inches in front facing south. The cheaper covering is burlap or cloth of some kind. The frame should be filled with good loamy soil. Use your cover at night and partly cover when the sun is too hot.

The same sort of frame will do for your hot bed, but you must dig out an excavation about 18 inches or 2 feet deep, filling this with fresh horse manure from which to get your heat, tramping the manure down firmly. When you reach the ground level, place the frame in position and back it up with manure. Put 3 or 4 inches of good soil on top of the manure inside the frame, and cover it with a sash. After the heat has reached its maximum and has subsided to between 80 and 90 degrees F., it will be safe to plant seeds.

Keep bed partially dark until seeds germinate, giving plenty of light after germination to keep them growing rapidly, but be very attentive to your watering and ventilation. Water the plants on clear days in the morning, and ventilate immediately to dry the foliage and to present mildew.

Transplant to the cold frame, this will harden your plants and make them stockier, so that when they are planted in the open ground they are able to better withstand outside weather conditions. Remember, when transplanting to choose, if possible, cool cloudy weather and work in the afternoon. This prevents the sun's rays from causing the plant to lose too much moisture through evaporation.

Growing Chrysanthemums

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soil is not good for them, neither is one that is too sandy.

The main thing in the care is to give them plenty of water and never let the roots get dry, as that means sure failure. One must judge by the appearance of the plant just the amount of water it requires as in sandy soil they can stand watering every day while on heavier soil about twice a week is sufficient. Yellow foliage is an indicatien of too much moisture.

As to the different varieties to grow, they are so numerous I will give only a few, which I consider the best and of the easiest culture.

Wm. Turner, White; Mad. Braunt, Bronze; Odessa, Yellow; Yellow Eaton—Yellow; Reginald Vallis, Deep Purple; Mrs. G. G. Mason Red. The pompons (small flowered) are easily raised by anyone and are principally used as table decorations, some good ones are:—Lillian Doty, Pink; Diana, White; Pomona (Anemone), White; Golden Climax, Yellow; Julia Lagravere, Red.

This magazine offers its services as an exceptional medium for class advertising at a very nominal rate. Your advertising appeal goes to the right people—potential buyers of plants, seeds garden tools, insecticides, garden furniture, and the thousand and one things which go to make gardening possible and satisfactory.

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The February Flower Garden

By MARY MATTHEWS

If you did not order your seeds last month do not put it off longer,—this is the rush season with dealers, and it is very apt to be a case of first come first served. Seeds of any of the summer blooming flowers can be sown now for early blooms—in boxes by all means —and well protected from the birds. I have had two deplorable happenings this past month, caused by them. About ten days ago I put out fifty-two fine small plants of Delphinium grown from seed. Today only stakes show where the plants were placed—with two exceptions,—and these had very little leaf growth. Again a box of fine seedlings in sorts was left open during the afternoon. When I went to cover them at night there was nothing. So if you have anything choice, take due precaution.

Asters are one of the most important things to be sown at this time. Sow them in flats, and when they have made the third leaf transplant into boxes, putting them an inch or two apart; then grow them on 'till time to put them in the ground. By planting seeds of them at intervals of two weeks or so you can greatly lengthen the season of bloom.

Antirrhinums (snap dragons) require about the same treatment. These are very apt to be affected with rust, and once it starts it seems almost impossible to check it. Putting the seeds in a weak solution of Bordeaux for about an hour before planting, and then after they are set in the ground, a good spraying every two weeks with the Bordeaux or a dusting of lime-sulphur, is about the best remedy, according to one successful European grower. Put in another lot of Schizanthus for late blooms. This is practically a hardy annual with us and can be sown at various times.

If your ground is well spaded up and thoroughly moistened you can sow sweet peas for late blooms, transplant stocks, pansies, and petunias. In stocks and petunias the weaker seedlings should be carefully saved, as these in most cases produce the finest doubles. If you are going to grow Salpiglossis from transplanted stock, put the seeds in now,—if in the open wait a while.

Put in an early planting of Gladiolus. Have your ground well spaded up and enriched and do not plant too closely if you want large plants and fine blooms. Put the bulbs a foot apart for best results. Clumps of cannas can be lifted and divided now,—they should have good, rich soil, well manured. Water very sparingly till they begin to push up well. During the summer season they cannot have too much water if drainage is good. Cannas have become one of the most gorgeous decorative plants for outdoor planting there is, and the amount of bloom they furnish during the season is wonderful if, when a bloom stalk is past its prime it is cut out at the base, leaving room for another to push up. 1920 catalogs show very few changes, all the old reliables are offered, but few new things. Among these are some Zinnias that promise well, Dahlia—flowered ones, the picotee and likewise the curled and crested ones, all ought to give good flowers. A salvia, a Royal purple in color, promises well And some one ought to try the Russian Statice, growing in long, slender sprays. One grower offers new Montbretias in brilliant colors, with flowers from 2½ to 4 inches in diameter, but the price per bulb is equally as large, being from $1.50 to $2.50 per bulb. Let us hope they will multiply rapidly so we can all take interest in some of them. Of course there are always fine new Gladiolus.

American Growers Coming to the Front

In flower seed production we are growing; more than fifty distinct and important classes of annuals are now demanded in such quantities as to require acres to produce sufficient seed for home need. Among important items are nearly 1500 acres of sweet peas, each yielding 200 to 500 pounds, according to kind; nearly a thousand acres of Tropaeolum, 300 acres of Asters, from 20 to 30 acres each of candy tuft Centaurea Dianthus, Escsholtzia, Larkspur, Mignonette, Phlox, Zinnias, etc. The only reason why we do not produce enough as yet of the finer seeds like Cineraria, Begonia, and the rarer hardy perennials is that the growers have not yet gotten around to it, lacking in most cases skilled help, ultimately this will be remedied of course and then indeed will the old world pay tribute to the new form.—The Garden Magazine for January.

Advertising copy should be in by the twentieth of the month preceding publication, and will be received by mail or in person at 945 Seventh Street or by mail at Point Loma.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

The January Meeting

An unusually well attended meeting of the Floral Association was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Salmons, on January 21st. Owing to the absence of the President and the late appearance of the Vice-President, Miss Sessions presided. . About seventy-five members and their friends were given the treat of viewing a selection of slides of roses in their natural colors. These autochromes were taken by Mr. A. D. Robinson and Mr. Harold Taylor, and as each slide was thrown on the screen Mr. Robinson in his usual inimitably interesting manner would touch upon it. His talk was extremely amusing and brought forth "audible smiles" on the part of the audience. Perhaps the most beautiful slide shown was one taken at Rosecroft of an arbor hung with a wealth of Dorothy Perkins roses. This rose is much inclined to have mildew in our climate, but when grown successfully, is difficult to equal in beauty. We regret that all that remains of this rose arbor is the slide. This, however, may be fortunate for Mr. Robinson as many of us would flock to view it were it still to be seen. Several beautiful slides were shown of Genl. MacArthur rose. Mr. Robinson remarked that many San Diegans attempt to grow roses not suitable to our climate, that the varieties which flourish here are limited. He stated that he took pride during the early days of his career as a rose culturist in having eighty varieties in his garden and he now has come to the conclusion that there should have been eight. After Mr. Robinson concluded his remarks Mr. Taylor showed a number of sunset views which were much enjoyed, and would be an inducement to any wandering tourist to remain to view the realities which the slides reflect. He spoke of his delight in once more being able to perpetuate the beauties of San Diego in this way. The autochrome plate is imported from France and during the period of the war they were not procurable. Mr. Taylor gave us a short talk on the autochrome process, explaining that dyed starch grains of three colors—red, blue and yellow, are incorporated in the sensitized films, the exposure being made through a specially prepared colored glass screen. It requires a longer exposure, and development must be made in total darkness or with a specially prepared light.

The views were followed by a rose discussion in which Miss Sessions and Mr. Robinson sparred with one another. Miss Sessions considers our climate and soil conditions quite well suited to the culture of roses, provided we irrigate properly. The rose requires a heavy soil and East San Diego was mentioned in particular as being well adapted to the planting of rose bushes. Some of those mentionned which will flourish in our climate and soil conditions were: Joseph Hill, Mrs. Aaron Ward, Mrs. A. R. Waddell, General MacArthur, Madam Abel Chatenay, Lady Hillington, Juliet, Radiance, Los Angeles and Mrs. S. K. Rindge. The latter is comparatively a new rose which has been put on the market by Howard & Smith. It is of a beautiful shade of yellow and has finely shaped buds. It was shown by Mr. Hieatt at our last Spring Exhibit, and caused more gasps of wonder than any other shown.

In the choice of rose bushes the foliage should be a feature to be considered. We should also purchase our stock in the west as the eastern hybrids are more often than not, failures. Miss Sessions regretted that the florists should have to go outside of the city for their supply and hoped that someone would soon take up the growing of roses commercially.

Mr. Robinson, upon request, gave a few simple directions for proper trimming and irrigation. He advised pruning late in the season as this stimulates the growth and our chief difficulty in San Diego is that the rose has not a sufficient dormant period. Generally speaking, he advises trimming back so that the bush has four or five main stalks. One of the chief requirements is the necessity for air. Many trim their climbers too vigorously, cutting all their side shoots back to the main stalk. Some of these should be left a few inches long and the main stalk not cut back to severely. Dorothy Perkins, however, does require a savage trimming. The less the rose bush grows the more it should be trimmed; the dead wood should be removed first then, as the blooms appear on the ripened growth of the previous year, eliminate the unripe growth. This presupposes an eye experienced enough to distinguish the ripened growth from that which is tender. The proper manner of trimming is partially determined by the individual's desire as to whether he wishes many blooms or a few superior ones. Rose bushes deteriorate in four years in the opinion of Mr. Robinson. He recommends excavating three feet before planting, as deep root growth should be encouraged and there should be thorough irrigation to a depth of two feet. He characterized surface irrigation as worse than nothing, as it brings the fine roots to the surface, which injures the rose bush. The best time to make cuttings is in December and January.

Mr. Hieatt spoke about the coming Rose Show and mentioned a tentative date as the

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Kudzu—Its Possibilities as a Forage Plant

By Bronte A. Reynolds, Sacramento, California.

My first acquaintance with the "Kudzu" vine dates back to 1907. I received two slips by mail from Tennessee which were recommended to me for their imbricating foliage and rapidity of growth. At the time I secured and planted the vines I had no definite knowledge as to its botanical identity or uses, but for beauty as a porch vine and rapidity of growth it surpassed all expectations. I can testify to the fact that during the warm, moist nights on the Atlantic Coast it produced an additional growth each night of over a linear foot and as cutting it to check it cause copious "bleeding", we resorted to coiling the tendrils in circular form. In the case of my own vines, which were then a curiosity in my neighborhood, I found a marked tendency of the tendrils to travel toward water. Several shoots, escaping at the base of the vine, made their way for 40 feet under porch and house straight for the well. As it was in complete darkness, the vines, when pulled from under the house, were bleached and without leafage, about the size of an ordinary clothes line and very strong and fibrous.

My plants did not blossom until five years old and then only sparingly at the very ends, topping the gable roof. The flower clusters in shape and color resembled the wistaria and gave off a heavy, cloying perfume.

The root system is extremely hardy as we had in Virginia many weeks that averaged near zero, which did not affect the vines at all. The vine in the fall was cut clear back to the ground and came out anew each spring.

One of the chief points by which it claimed my attention as a house decoration was that it was not a destructive vine, while it will go through the merest crevice, it does not loosen the shingles or boarding, nor secrete mold or dampness, virtually clinging to the merest suggestion of protuberance that will offer support.

I have since found the "Kudzu" to belong to the legume family, with the peas, etc., and was told that it was a valuable forage plant in Nippon. In late years it has been successfully introduced into the United States, and according to specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture, it is a forage which merits extensive use on the heavy clay hillsides and otherwise neglected land of the Southern states. "Kudzu" prospers in the eastern part of the United States, particularly southward, attaining luxurious growth where the summers are warm and moist. For ornamental purposes the decorative vines often climb to a reight of 60 feet or more.

The Japanese utilize "Kudzu" on rough, rocky hillsides which are too steep to be cultivated, the fiber of the stems being used to make "grass cloth", an article of commerce, while portmanteaus are also manufactured from this fiber. The kuu roots are rich in starch, which is used extensively in making cakes and noodles. They also make hay from the Kudzu vine, it being a great delicacy for sick horses, as they will eat the Kudzu readily when they refuse other feed.

Fields in northern Florida, when well established, have yielded three cuttings of hay a season and as high as 10 tons an acre. Under favorable conditions Kudzu is a profitable crop, notwithstanding the fact that its perennial nature does not permit of its being used in rotation.

The Oak

By Arthur Wallace Peach.

I KNOW a place where a great oak grows,
Splitting a granite rock in train;
And oft do I think when I see the oak
Of the mighty rock whose strength was vain.

An acorn on the wind came down,
Fell in a crevice small and slight;
It sprouted, grew, and with the years
Shattered the rock with its patient might.

And now when men complain and say,
Life is too hard, they can't succeed,
I often wish to say to them,
"To the story of the oak give heed."

For the soul that is brave and strong can grow
To charm and strength in the barest place;
As the little seed to the great oak grew
Straight and tall on the mountain's face!

NOW IN NATIONAL FORESTS

Congress has set apart 1,116,000 acres of land iin Idaho known as the Thunder Mauntain region as national forest lands. This great tract, difficult of access and having not over 1 per cent of its area suitable for agriculture, has for years been the scene of destructive fires and devastation due to overgrazing. It is now to be added to the Payette National Forest, which adjoins it on the south and west, and the Idaho National Forest, which adjoins it on the north and west.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

A Chapter of Fruits

By Fidella G. Woodcock.

Of the less known fruits that have been brought into the southlands of our country for experiment, the tree tomato, though as yet of little commercial importance, being a rare species, is at present the most interesting one that I have seen.

The making of finer products out of wild plants from the tropical or nearly tropical climates where intensive agriculture is hardly necessary, sometimes leads to the discovery of latent qualities in fruits that a system of cultivation can thoroughly test. So far the most of our fruit culture is applied to the kinds that we can produce the most of and place upon the market with least expense, while the finer grains are reserved for epicurean tastes as luxuries. But the world is coming to the universal frame of mind in which we all like a good thing and are ready to reduce the obstruction to getting it, laying aside the wornout platitude of necessary evil. It is up to civilization to become the best and get the best out of all the stray immigrants that come this way—plants or otherwise, and the better fruits that Southern California can produce, the more will be the glory of the man with the hoe in Jehovah's garden that feeds the world.

The revelation of what budding and grafting, and cross-breeding can do with the Washington navel and the Eureka lemon may be sufficient evidence of what can be done under favorable circumstances in the way of fruit industry in general.

Cyphomandra betacea, the tree tomato of Brazil, has a richness of flavor that the vine tomato of the Peruvian Andes, our commonly cultivated Lycopersicum esculentum, does not possess, but as yet it is not as wholesome or as satisfying as a food. The acid, like that of oranges raised near the sea sinks of some of the newer geological surfaces is sometimes a little bitter. But in soils wherein tonic acids have steeped out the traces of standing alkali there is a sweetness and a crispness in the Brazilian species that is pleasant and enduring.

To sweep any fruit off the board and say it is of little account is often a drastic way of showing that we haven't time to bother with it in a small way, an oversight of commercialism. While we all understand that we cannot live in this planet without more or less regard for commercial values there is a good deal to let grow besides the love of wholesale cheapness.

To become better is the standard and we cannot always be known by our fruiting standard when the frost and winds and excessive drought or moisture are in full blast. But I do not feel that I am wandering from the subject in making the attempt to apply to the immigrant tomato what is good for all kinds of fruits. In working out a system of intensive cultivation in a country that shows such wonderful adaptability to fruit growing, it seems entirely practicable to consider that California forms of imported stocks can be made equal to, if not better than, the best in their native soils.

Illustrating my meaning by the example of what Southern California has done with the common tomato plant, essentially a plant of the warm uplands of Peru and Mexico, I can go further in saying that in a warm, dry garden not given to heavy or lasting moist heat, the clusters of Cyphomandra may become not only prolific but ornamental, besides being already a very good salad food.

The tree itself, regardless of the fruit, though not very tall is inclined to be graceful as it has not yet become sufficiently adapted to the climate to be overdeveloped or luxuri- In warm, frequently watered grounds it becomes subject to the red aphis that nests in the joint of the leaf scars when the fruiting branches are maturing and cause early dropping of leaves before they are fully grown. This is unfortunate, as the foliage is unique and as beautiful as sum of the warm house begonias to which it is similar in shape and appearance, a pale, metallic green with a diffusion of purple along the middle veins, more conspicuous even than the flowers that are small and waxy white, often tinged with rose or violet. Their slow growth makes them quite inconspicuous in camparison with the rest of the infloresence. For the fruit develops rapidly in pendent clusters of red, brown berries not larger than an ordinary egg, a pointed oval. It is larger than any of the guavas and as a garden ornamental is yet rare. It grows better with the guavas than among the citrus groves, needing a disintegrated soil or soluble carbons with nitrates.

Like the guavas it is a wild stock that responds to richer soil treatment. Whatever may be its fate either as a garden ornament or as a high grade edible food (I am not so much of a stickler on classification as to mistake it for good quality of various kinds) it is open to the investigation of its merits with the spirit of good life for the sake of better fruit, social science and other sciences worth knowing. The inequalities that produce social unrest are obvious in associate orchard groups as well, for a lack of the essential scientific knowledge of requirements for growth and

expansion, and that is not all. Spiritual protection is included, or the fruit tree withers and dies, so the cultivation means putting into it the elements of its kind both in the plant and in its surroundings.

Soil culture is the source of a great deal of the indigestion of foods and is an important part of domestic science to get the proper food values. Dollars and dollars are spent in trying fruit while comparatively few are devoted to its production. But as this is an article of fruit rather than "on fruit" I will forbear to discuss questions related to other matters, however true I may find them to be. What our fruits are is not as much the criterion as what we can make of them. What the world adores in the man of genius is that he has a universal mind that can think and act and sometimes speak for all but there is an possibility that the time is not far off when the mind of the people can work into th harmonies of good life, or perhaps as well, be able to create the harmonies in many minds.

This may seem off the subject of fruit industry, but the mind that sticks to the wheel as it moves around is of the same nature as the kind that keeps the fruit a growing and it is the aim of the article to turn around once or twice before the finish.

Back to Farm Movement

According to a report just issued by the Vocational Summary it appears that the back to the farm movement has started in earnest.

The report states that 19,859 pupils over the country were enrolled in agricultural subjects in vocational schools during 1918 and 1919.

The report further states that this is an increase of 4,442 students being trained in this subject. It is interesting to note that this is only the second year in which practical instruction of this sort has been within reach of the average child of school age.

The Bureau of the Census approximates an increase of one million farms in the United States during the last ten years. This increase, together with the increase of scientifically trained men to operate them, has secured the future of agricultural America.

PLANT EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT

This department is at your disposal to assist you in exchanging plants, seeds, bulbs, cuttings, etc., with other readers of this magazine. Any amateur gardener who has a surplus of planting material which he wishes to exchange for what he does not have in his garden has only to drop a card to The California Garden, Point Loma, Calif., stating what you have and what you want—in plants, etc., and it will be published in the form of a "want ad" without charge. *Use this service.*

The January Meeting

Continued from page 7

last week in April. He advised trimming about the first of February, as this will result in the bushes blossoming at the proper time for exhibition purposes. It is to be hoped that the evening will have assimilated all those present not only to exhibit themselves, but to encourage all those whom they come in contact with, to do their bit. Let us have an excellent exhibit, comrades, which will make us all proud and induce all tourists who view our show, to come to san Diego to raise roses and outwit those who try to induce people to raise smoke stacks to the exclusion of everything else.

Before the meeting adjourned two of our guests, Mrs. Sealy and Miss Manning told us something of the tropical growth of the West Indies. We hope these ladies will attend our meetings again and perhaps at some future date tell us more of the plant life found in the Indies.

LEDA KLAUBER, Secretary.

Floral Association Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Floral Association will be held Tuesday evening, February 17, at 8:00 o'clock at the home of Mrs. N. E. Barker, 306 Walnut Street.

The Horticultural Commissioner will talk on the subject of "Plant Protection, Quarantines and Control Measures", telling what is done to prevent introduction of plant pests from other states and countries, and suggesting means of control for those which are already present.

Grape Phylloxera in Tulare County

Grape Phylloxera has been discovered in two townships in Tulare County. There are now twenty-one counties in California where this pest is known to be present, Santa Barbara being so far the furthest point south. Other counties in the state—especially the southern counties, maintain a quarantine against rooted grapevines from the counties where the infested areas exist, a number, including San Diego County, will only receive unrooted cuttings, and those subject to fumigation at point of destination before being released for delivery.

Word comes from Calipatria that distributions of North Dakota flaxseed are being made to farmers in that vicinity with a view to determining whether or not this crop can be successfully grown under California conditions. It is thought that a heavier crop may be obtained here than in North Dakota, where the average yield is about thirty bushels to the acre and bring a price of from $5 to $7 per bushel.

THE BOOK SHELF

By Lena B. Hunsicker, Refesence Librarian
San Diego Publie Library

BOOKS ON ROSE CULTURE

Spring is the season for setting out your roses in California. A California home without a garden is a rare thing and a garden without roses is impossible.

Perhaps, however, you are an amateur in gardening and will need some helps and many suggestions in planting and taking care of this garden. If such is the case you will be glad to know that there is in print a goodly number of very excellent books on the cultivation of roses.

Not all of these by any means can be taken to apply exclusively to California conditions, but all of them even though written for the eastern and middle west sections of the country contain many helpful suggestions.

A good book of the handbook type to begin with is, "Making a Rose Garden" by H. Bursts its green bud and looks abroad for follows, will give an idea of the contents of the book: 1. Classification of roses, 2. Location of soil. 3. Preparation and planting. 4. Fertilizing. 5. Pruning. 6. Pests. 7. Propogation. 8. Winter protection. 9. List of dependable roses.

Then there is the "Woman's Handy Garden" by H. R. Ely.

"Everblooming roses" by G. T. Drennan is an excellent book devoted exclusively to the culture of roses and written by a woman who has had a wide experience in their growing. At the end of the book there is a descriptive list of the most important types of roses.

A most fascinating book and illustrated by innumerable full page color plates is the "Practical Book of Outdoor Rose Growing" by G. C. Thomas. That the book has filled a great need is shown by the fact that it has already gone through several editions. The beautiful color plates with foot notes will make an excellent aid in making a choice of roses for your garden.

Wickson's "California Garden Flowers" published in 1915 is indispensable for the amateur gardener. It is just exactly the kind of book that its subtitle claims it to be, "being mainly suggestions for the working amateur". The book is divided into five parts: 1, California conditions; 2, California cultural suggestions; 3, California garden year; 4, California's way with garden plants; 5, Shrubs, trees and vines; 6, Plant protection. There is also a practical chapter on roses.

Pickings and Peckings

Continued from page 3

got all the cash and then some. I read his letters in a room with the blinds down.

I have a postcard dated December 4 from Rural England showing a regular old-fashioned posy garden and underneath it says "Where all is fair, Goold Old San Diego," but every silver lining has a cloud, on the other side is written. "Very cold, damp and windy. Snow fell several times while we were in London, and Park and Zoo ponds were frozen over with a half inch of ice. Days very short, dark, and cold, so we will see the gardens in summer next year. Go to Nice, Jan. 6, perhaps to be snowed on again." This card came from a faithful Floral Association member who failed to consult me before going abroad. I could have told her that my one return trip in thirty years gave me as a starter nine weeks of delirium with typhoid fever in the lucid intervals of which I cussed myself for being such a fool as to leave California. I am going again some day and soon if the weather man does not manage the rain question more sanely and from the point of view of the gardener rather than the tourist.

You see I am gradually working round to the Garden and I do want to make a suggestion for this New Year particularly with regard to the lathhouse. The past year has shown conclusively that the lathhouse is our great shining differentiation from the gardens elsewhere I am in a position to say it excites the admiration of Lawyer and Politician, Admiral and General, Business man and chicken raiser, and these in both genders, also the garden expert and those who don't know a begonia from a beet. We must collect data about our lathhouses and those owning them should make regular periodic notes, once a week would not be too often—setting down everything in bloom, everything planted and all other details of work therein if such notes could be delivered to the editor of this magazine really useful seasonal articles could be arranged for another year and possibly an authoritative book gotten out. Don't forget San Diego is the lathhouse land. Today, Dec. 29 there must be in excess of twenty-five varieties of begonias in bloom; a crinum Moorei still has a bloom, also a streptocarpus and outside in the garden under a tree dahlia bulbs that were not planted, out of respect for our city fathers, have flowers. This is the real advertising stuff for our city—it is hot air that convinces. Collect Lathhouse Data and turn it in.

Remember the Bulb Show and the Spring Flower Show and plan to exhibit something.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

The California Garden

G. R. Gorton, Editor
Office, 945 Seventh St., San Diego, Cal.

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Floral Association Meetings

The Floral Association meets regularly on the third Tuesday evening of each month at the homes mentioned below.

All persons interested in gardening are welcome at these meetings.

February—Mrs. N. E. Barker, 306 Walnut street. Subject: "Plant Protection, Quarantines and Control Measures."

March—Mrs. Geo. Marston, 3525 Seventh street. Subject: "Street Planting and Yard Beautification."

April—Mrs. L. A. Jones, 4380 Valle Vista. Subject: "Dahlias, Chrysanthemums, Zinnias, Marigolds.

May—Mrs. Ernest White, 2100 Second street. Subject: "Lathhouses."

June—Annual meeting.

July—Mrs. C. F. Naylor, 3520 Oregon street. Subject: "Cacti and Other Succulents."

August—Mrs. W. L. Frevert, 3535 First street. Subject: "California Wild Flowers."

Float Wins Prize

The float entered by the San Diego Chamber of Commerce in the tournament of roses held at Pasadena recently was awarded a prize in the special class for city entries. The float was decorated with poinsettias and green, and was in charge of Dr. Louise Heilbron of San Diego.

The Query Corner

Q. Is this the proper time to spray for peach leaf curl, and what do you recommend for this purpose?

A. This spraying should be done as the leaf buds are swelling, but before they open. Lime Sulphur solution in proportions of one part Lime Sulphur to ten parts of water, is satisfactory. The solution should be thoroughly applied to all portions of the tree.

Q. What varieties of Apricot are best for this locality?

A. Royal, Blenheim, Henskirk are standard commercial varieties. The Moorpark produces a large, very delicious fruit, porbably the finest flavored of all, but is an erratic and shy bearer.

Q. When should I spray apples and pears to prevent the fruit from being wormy?

A. The first spraying of apples, pears and quinces for codlin-moth (the larva of which is found in "wormy" fruit) should be done as the majority of the blossom petals are falling. It is very important that this application be made at this time so that the poison may be sprayed into the calyx cups before they close. The second spraying should be applied about three weeks later, and the third about one month or six weeks after the second. A liquid spray, lead arsenate (basic) at the rate of one ounce to one gallon of water, gives very good results.

NOTE:—The query corner is open to all readers of the Garden for questions on garden subjects. Use this column freely, as in answering your questions we will probably be answering those of other readers.

University Extension Lecture

F. M. Fultz, of the Extension Department of the University of California, will lecture on the subject of "California Wild Flowers" at the First Congregational Church, San Diego, Monday evening, March first, at eight o'clock, under the auspices of the San Diego Floral Association.

Mr. Fultz's talk will be illustrated with beautifully colored slides of our native flowers.

A general invitation is issued to all interested. No admission will be charged—a silver offering will be taken up to cover actual expenses.

Help to make the **Spring Flower Show** a truly representative exhibit of what Southern California can produce in roses and other seasonable flowers.

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